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REMARKS

The amendment to this specification shown in Paragraph 1 above, listed under the heading of “Additional Paragraphs To The Specification,” amends the specification to include a cross-reference to related applications.

The amendment to this specification shown in Paragraph 2 above, listed under the heading of “Additional Paragraphs To The Specification,” is exactly the same as the amendment that was included in predecessor Application Serial No. 08/817,445, filed October 16, 1995, in a document entitled “Amendment To Office Action Dated November 12, 1999,” which amendment was filed on May 12, 2000. Because the subject application is a continuation, Applicants repeat the amendments made to the predecessor application(s) and adopt the reasons set forth in that amendment, which reasons are incorporated herein.

Similarly, the amendments to the specification shown in paragraphs above, listed under the heading of “Amended Paragraphs To The Specification” are exactly the same as the amendments that were included in predecessor Application Serial No. 08/817,445, filed October 16, 1995, in a document entitled “Amendment And Response,” which was filed on October 20, 1998. Because the subject application is a continuation, Applicants repeat the amendments made to the predecessor application and adopt the reasons set forth in those amendments, which reasons are incorporated herein.

Because this is a continuation of predecessor Application Serial No. 08/817,445, filed October 16, 1995, applicants have filed drawings as originally filed in that application. Applicants have also filed formal drawings incorporating the changes made to the drawings, which changes are set forth in a document entitled “Proposed Changes To The Drawings,” filed on October 20, 1998 in

that predecessor application, which changes were accepted by the Examiner. Similarly, Figure 9 was added in that predecessor Application in the in the document mentioned above entitled "Amendment To Office Action Dated November 12, 1999," which amendment was filed on May 12, 2000. Accordingly, Figure 9 is included in the formal drawings submitted herewith.

Claims 1-26 are currently pending in the application, and are cancelled by this Preliminary Amendment. New claims beginning with claim 27 have been added.

Applicants respectfully request entry of this preliminary amendment prior to action on the merits, and request early allowance of all pending claims. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee which may be required for this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.18, including but not limited to the issue fee, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. Should no proper amount be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. A duplicate copy of this sheet(s) is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.

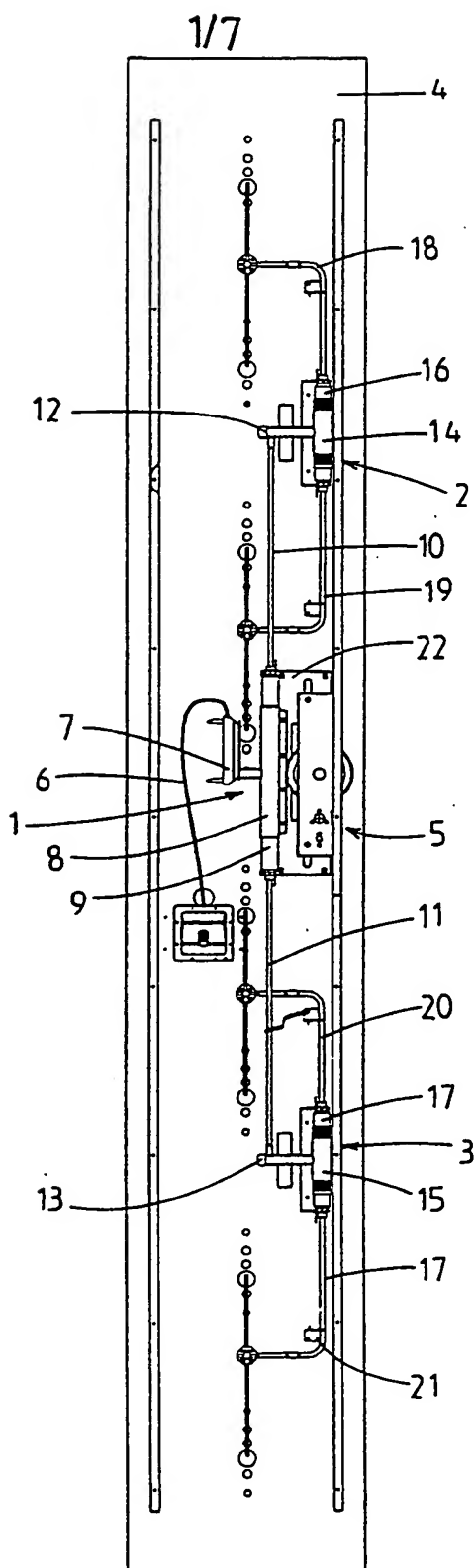
By



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January 26, 2004



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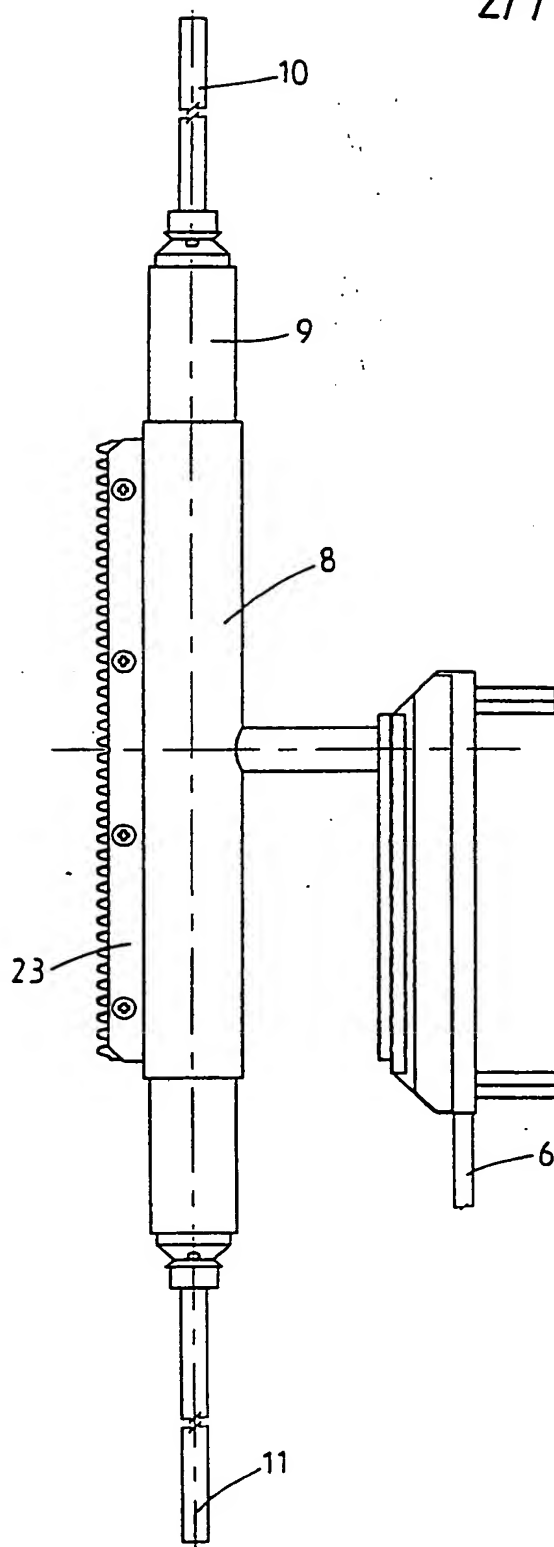


FIG. 2

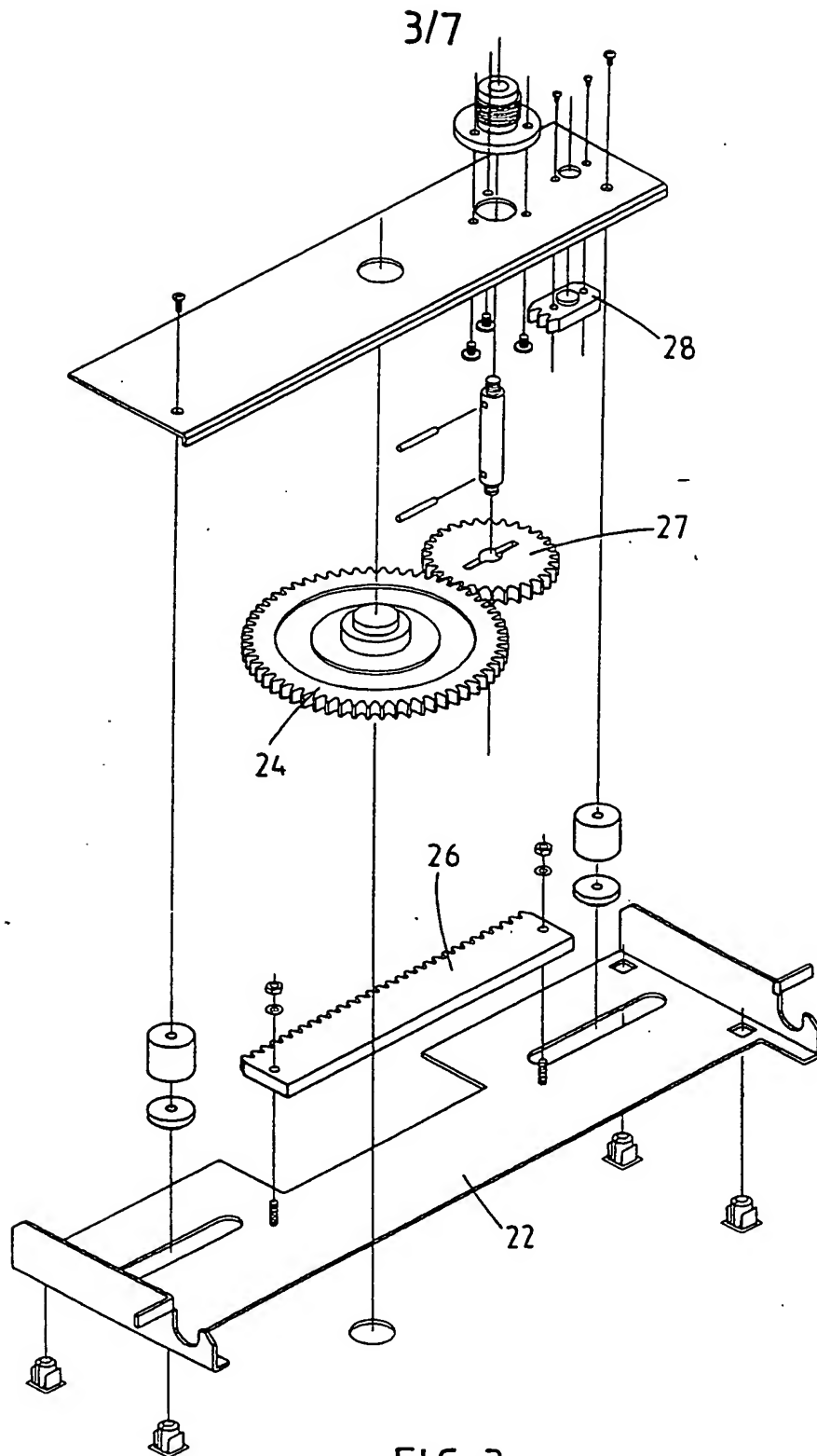


FIG. 3

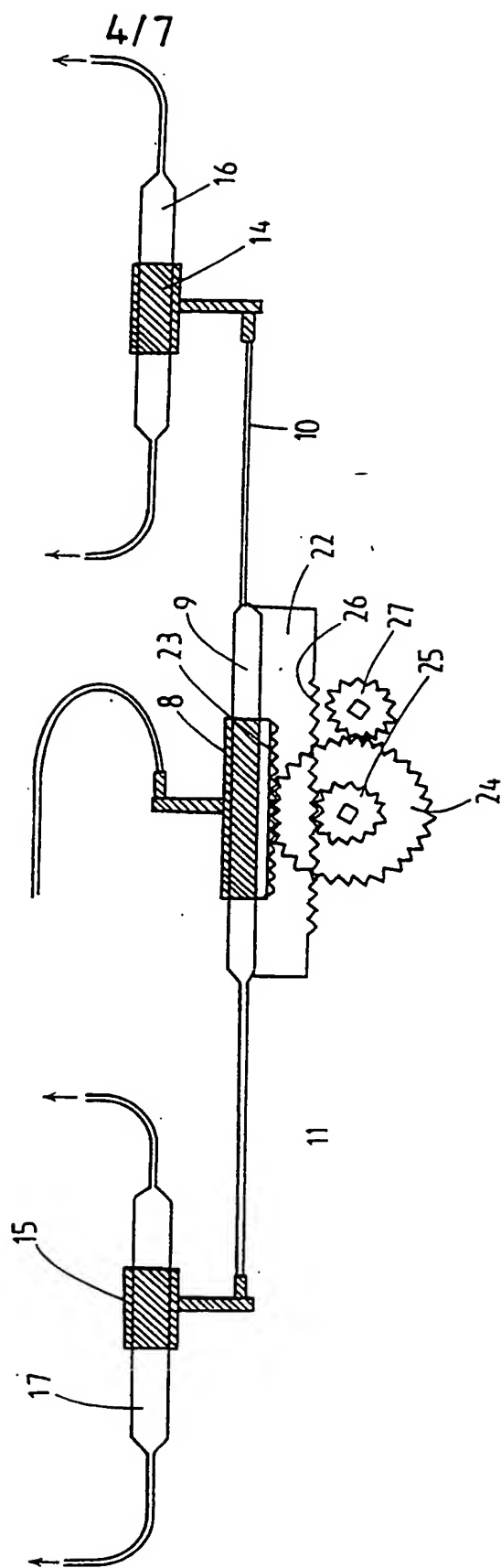


FIG. 4

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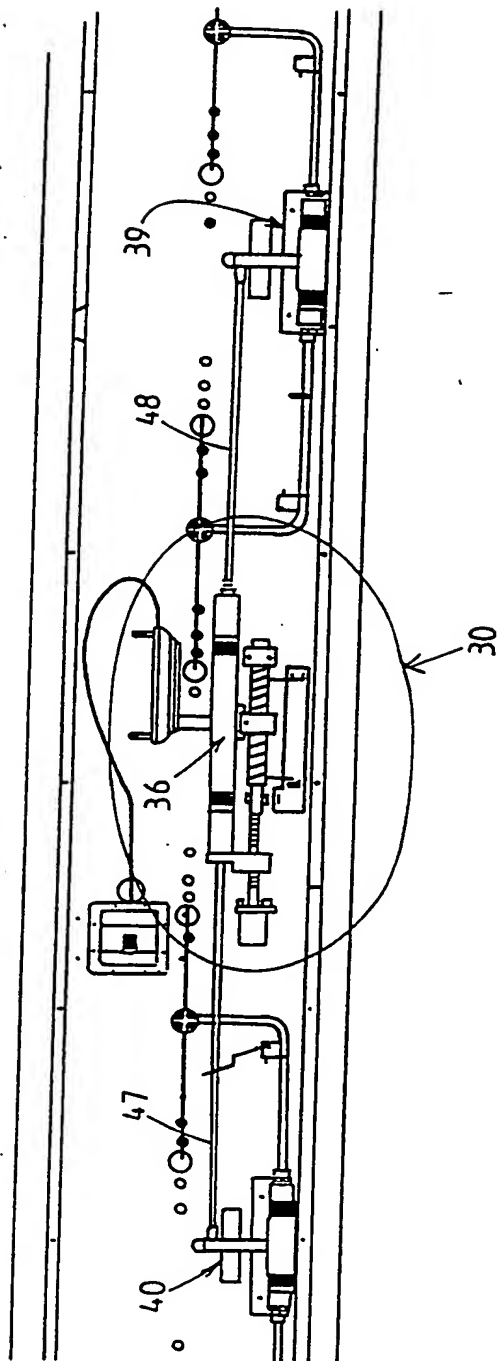


FIG. 5

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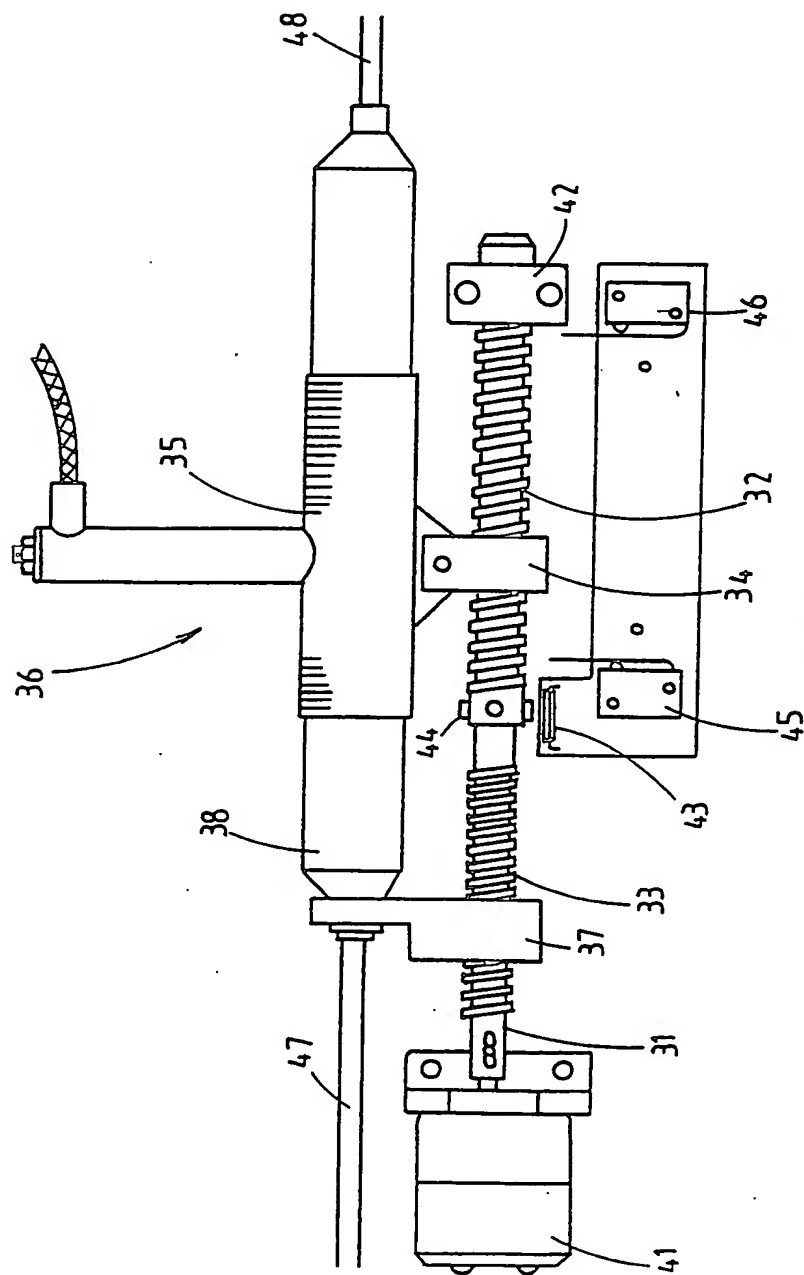
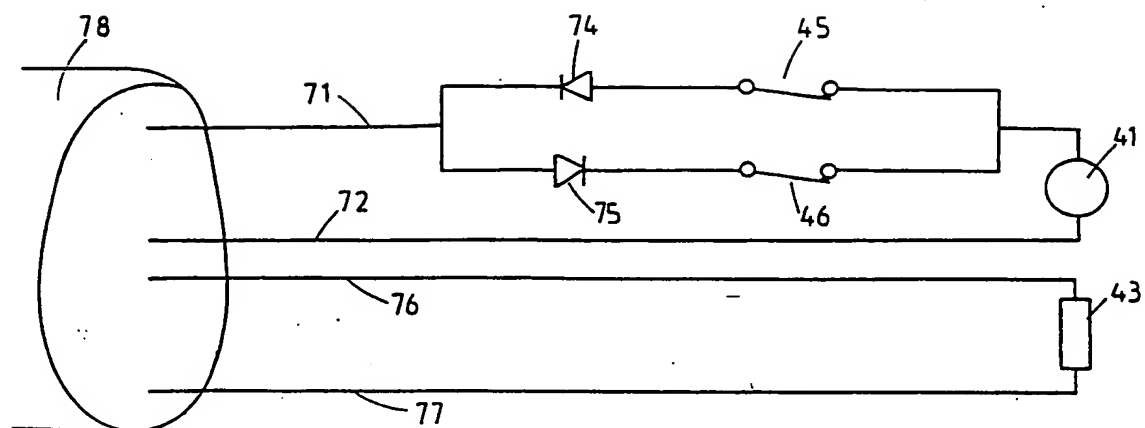
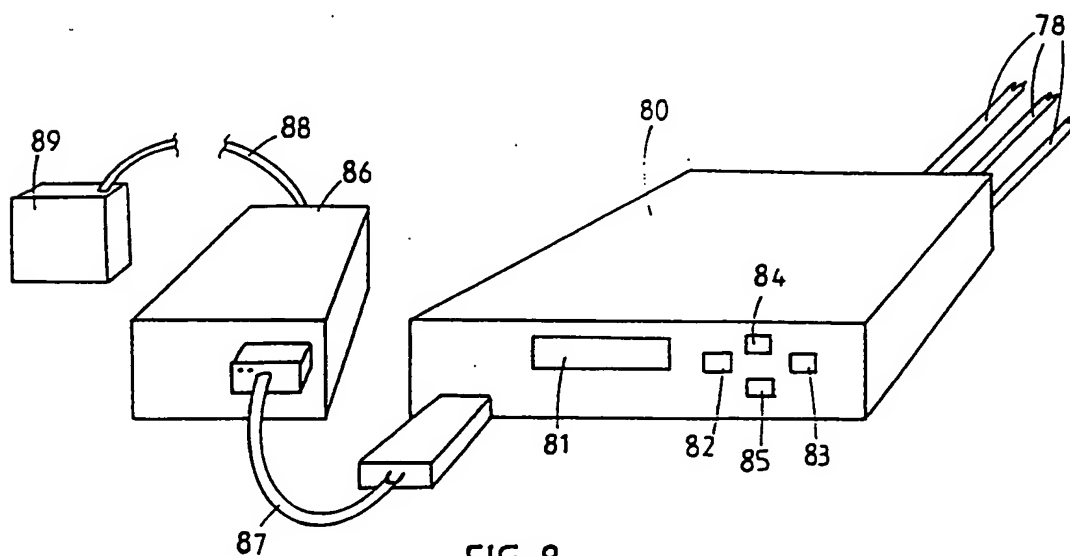


FIG. 6

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FIG. 7FIG. 8